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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 3 MARCH 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 2 March 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls your attention to the fact that a delegation from the United States Department of State accompanied by officials of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs entered Iraqi territory illegally by way of the Iraq-Turkey boundary in the period from 8 to 12 February 2000, in open violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, and he urges you to intervene directly with the governments concerned with a view to inducing them to desist from such violations.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Identical letters dated 2 March 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

We should like to bring it to your attention that a delegation from the United States Department of State accompanied by a number of officials of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs entered Iraqi territory illegally by way of the Iraq-Turkey boundary in the period from 8 to 12 February 2000 and met with leaders of the warring Kurdish factions in the area.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq strongly condemns the action of Turkish governmental authorities in permitting illegal entry, in the company of Turkish officials, to those indicated above and to other elements involved in espionage and sabotage, which is to be considered a violation of all the relevant international laws and conventions. It denounces unethical and irresponsible practices of this kind, which are part and parcel of the frenzied acts of aggression committed by the United States and Turkey that constitute open and deliberate interference in the internal affairs of Iraq and pose a threat to its security and territorial integrity.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq has previously had occasion to call the attention of the Security Council to the gravity of such outlaw practices in view of the fact that they are in flagrant violation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law. The Council has, however, met them with total silence, has taken no action to condemn them and has adopted no fitting position in their regard.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq, condemning these irresponsible actions by the United States and Turkey in the strongest terms, calls upon the Security Council to discharge its responsibilities as stipulated in the Charter by opposing actions that violate the norms of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and by taking the necessary measures to ensure respect for the sovereignty and political independence of Iraq.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq